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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.16, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders"

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 41st meeting, held on 16 November 1992, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.16 by a recorded vote of 97 to 1, with 41 abstentions. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.3/47/L.26.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.16, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to the United Nations Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in support of the Institute, to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, all its mandates.

3. UNAFRI was established in 1987 by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In accordance with the statute of the Institute, its administration and programme costs are to be financed by the assessed contributions of African member States under a specific scale of assessment, while its operational activities are to be funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As indicated in the Secretary-General's report on UNAFRI (A/47/379 and Corr.1), its budget for 1992 amounted to $1,171,457, of which $746,457 was to be provided by UNDP, $250,000 from the assessed contributions of the African member States and $180,000 from the United Nations regular

budget. The United Nations grant to UNAFRI was approved under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/153 of 18 December 1991 and was provided for under section 23, Economic Commission for Africa, of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The grant was to cover part of the administrative costs of the Institute, namely the costs of the posts of Director and Deputy Director.

4. The Secretary-General has not been in a position to propose specific longer-term solutions to the financing of the Institute in his report to the Assembly (A/47/379 and Corr.1). He intends to submit proposals in this regard to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

5. As indicated in the report, the financial situation of the Institute has improved to some extent in 1992 as a result of increased UNDP funding and the provision of the United Nations grant. However, during the same period, the collection of assessed contributions from Member States continued to decline.

6. The difficulties encountered by the Institute in attracting qualified personnel to fill the existing vacancies, as well as the vacancy of the post of Director of the Institute during part of 1992 following the departure of the former incumbent, have resulted in underexpenditure of the projected resources, including the grant appropriated in 1991 by the General Assembly.

7. Taking into account the fact that the post of Director of the Institute is in the process of being filled and that every effort would be made to fill rapidly the other existing vacancies, the Secretary-General considers that UNAFRI would continue to be in need of additional resources in 1993. The Secretary-General, however, is not at the present time in a position to provide an exact estimate of the financial resources that may be required or to submit related proposals for the redeployment of resources. Instead, the concurrence of the General Assembly is sought for the continued use of the grant approved by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session for the financing of the posts of Director and Deputy Director of the Institute through 1993. Should the balance of the 1992 grant prove insufficient for that purpose, the Secretary-General would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the redeployment of the necessary resources within the overall appropriations for the biennium 1992-1993.